The Guam Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the March 2004 unemployment rate was 7.7 percent, a decrease of 3.7 percentage points from the 11.4 percent reported in March 2002. In March 2004, the number of people employed reached 56,810, an increase of 1,830 from two years ago. Of the total employed, the immigrant aliens (PRA) category showed an increase of 3,660 people from the March 2002 report of 9,620 to 13,280 in March 2004. As reported previously, recent gains in employment are largely due to typhoon recovery construction projects and recovery from previously depressed levels.

The total number of people unemployed in March 2004 was 4,710, a decrease of 2,360 from the previous survey in March 2002 of 7,070 unemployed. The unemployment rate for all the reported categories in Table 1 declined.

Those persons not in the labor force, who were persons not employed and not actively looking for work numbered 38,260, an increase of 810 from the prior survey. Of the person not in the labor force, 5,720 desired to work but did not search for employment during the reference period for the reasons presented in Table 2.

The comparable seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for March 2004 in the State of Hawaii was 3.5 percent and the U.S. national unemployment rate was 6.0 percent.

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